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FROM: Paul D. Bianco, Ph.D.

REFERENCE: 780-A02-033

DIRECT TEL: 305-931-9620
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MESSAGE:**PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION CONCERNING THE BELOW IDENTIFIED CASE**

Patentee: P. Bonutti

Confirmation No.: 5055

Application No.: 09/728,553

Group Art Unit: 3743

Patent No.: 6,820,614

Examiner: A. Lewis

Filed: December 2, 2000

Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-033

Issued: November 23, 2004

For: TRACHEAL INTUBINATION

1. Request for Certificate of Correction of Patent (2 pgs)
2. Certificate of Correction (duplicate)
3. Copy of Notice of Allowability (1 pg)
4. Copy of Response to Office Action (21 pgs)

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ATTENTION

On January 20, 2005

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patentee: P. Bonutti

Application No.: 09/728,553

Patent No.: 6,820,614

Filed: December 2, 2000

Issued: November 23, 2004

For: TRACHEAL INTUBINATION

Confirmation No.: 5055

Group Art Unit: 3743

Examiner: A. Lewis

Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-033

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION OF PATENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.322

ATTN:

Certificate of Corrections Branch
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

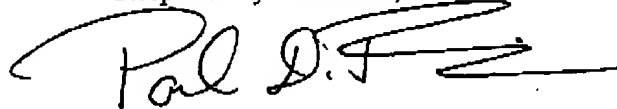
It is noted that several errors appears in the above-identified patent. The exact locations and nature of these errors are as follows:

Column 48, Claim 3, Line 24	Change "abjacent" to "adjacent"
Column 48, Claim 6, Line 45	Change "rube" to "tube"
Column 51, Claim 24, Line 29	Change "phaxynx" to "pharynx"
Column 52, Claim 27, Line 6	Change "and" to "end"
Column 54, Claim 38, Line 17	Change "though" to "through"
Column 54, Claim 42, Line 48	Change "location" to "locations"
Column 55, Claim 49, Line 33	Change "abjacent" to "adjacent"
Column 55, Claim 50, Line 54	Change "fort" to "forth"

As indicated on the enclosed Notice of Allowability, the claims were allowed in the form as presented in the Response to Office Action filed June 21, 2004 (a copy of which is also enclosed). Applicant respectfully submits that the allowed claims, specifically claims 173, 177, 201, 209, 226, 230, 239 and 240 (now renumbered issued claims 3, 6, 24, 27, 38, 42, 49 and 50), should be corrected to read as noted above. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that these errors are of a clerical error attributable solely to Office mistake. Accordingly, a Certificate of Correction is requested. Attached hereto in duplicate is Form PTO-1050 with at least one copy being suitable for printing. Please send the Certificate of Correction to the undersigned at the address noted. If there are any questions regarding this Request, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite issuance of the Certificate.

As this error is solely attributable to an Office mistake, no fee is believed to be due. However, should any fee be due, please charge the appropriate fee to the Deposit Account of the undersigned, Account No. 500601 (Docket no. 780-A02-033)

Respectfully submitted,



Paul D. Bianco, Reg. #43,500

Enclosures

Customer Number: 33771

Paul D. Bianco

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PTO/SB/44 (04-04)

Approved for use through 04/30/2007. OMB 0651-0033

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(Also Form PTO-1050)

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 6,820,614 B2
DATED : November 23, 2004
INVENTOR(S) : Peter M. Bonutti

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 48, Claim 3, Line 24 Change "abjacent" to --adjacent--
Column 48, Claim 6, Line 45 Change "rube" to --tube--
Column 51, Claim 24, Line 29 Change "phaxynx" to --harynx--
Column 52, Claim 27, Line 6 Change "and" to --end--
Column 54, Claim 38, Line 17 Change "though" to --through--
Column 54, Claim 42, Line 48 Change "location" to --locations--
Column 55, Claim 49, Line 33 Change "abjacent" to --adjacent--
Column 55, Claim 50, Line 54 Change "fort" to --forth--

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER: Paul D. Bianco
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601 Brickell Key Drive, Suite 404
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PATENT NO. 6,820,614 B2

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Column 54, Claim 42, Line 48 Change "location" to --locations--
Column 55, Claim 49, Line 33 Change "abjacent" to --adjacent--
Column 55, Claim 50, Line 54 Change "fort" to --forth--

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PATENT NO. 6,820,614 B2

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If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/728,553	BONUTTI, PETER M.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	AARON J. LEWIS	3743	

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address-

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/21/2004 (AMENDMENT).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 171-175, 177, 179-194, 200, 201, 205, 207, 209, 210, 212-217 and 223-242.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 December 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

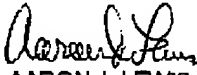
5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

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Attachment(s)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
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 AARON J. LEWIS
 Primary Examiner
 Art Unit 3743

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FROM: Paul D. Bianco, Ph.D. DIRECT TEL: 305-831-0820 FAX: 305-416-4677	REFERENCE: 780-A02-033

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MESSAGE:

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION CONCERNING THE BELOW IDENTIFIED CASE

Applicant(s): P. Bonatti	Confirmation No. 5055
Application No.: 09/728,553	Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-033
Filed: December 2, 2000	Group Art Unit: 3743
Re: TRACHEAL INTUBINATION	Examiner: A. Lewis

1. Response to Final Office Action (20 pgs)

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PAGE 02/21 RCVD AT 6/21/04 2:36:09 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] SVR:USPTO-EFXXF-1/3 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:305 416 4489 * DURATION (mm:ss):08-12

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Applicant(s): P. Bonutti

Confirmation No. 5055

Application No.: 09/728,553

Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-033

Filed: December 2, 2000

Group Art Unit: 3743

For: TRACHEAL INTUBINATION

Examiner: A. Lewis

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTIONMail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450**COPY**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed May 14, 2004, please enter the following amendments and remarks into the file of the above-entitled application. In accordance with USPTO practice, each section of this Amendment begins on a separate sheet.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Response under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116(a) in that the amendment and remarks below place the application and claims in condition for allowance, or, at least, present the application in better form for appeal. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the following are respectfully requested.

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On June 21, 2004

Dinah Fuentes

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Applicant(s): Bonutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

Amendments to the Claims

1-170. (Cancelled)

171. (Previously presented) A method of tracheal intubation, said method comprising the steps of positioning a plurality of detectors in an array adjacent to an outer surface of a patient's neck, locating a positioning apparatus relative to the patient's trachea, moving a guide rod relative to the patient's respiratory system along an insertion path which extends from the patient's pharynx, through the patient's larynx and into the patient's trachea, emitting an output at a leading end portion of the guide rod as the guide rod moves along the insertion path, detecting the output emitted at the leading end portion of the guide rod with detectors of the plurality of detectors, determining the position of the leading end portion of the guide rod along the insertion path as a function of the relationship of the emitted output detected by one of the plurality of detectors to the emitted output detected by another detector of the plurality of detectors, moving a tracheal tube relative to the patient's respiratory system along the insertion path by moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod, emitting an output at a leading end portion of the tracheal tube as the tracheal tube moves along the insertion path, detecting the output emitted at the leading end portion of the tracheal tube with detectors of the plurality of detectors, and determining the position of the leading end portion of the tracheal tube along the insertion path as a function of the relationship of the emitted output detected by one detector of the plurality of detectors to the emitted output detected by another detector of the plurality of detectors.

172. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 171 wherein said step of locating the positioning apparatus relative to the patient's trachea includes engaging the patient's Adam's apple with the positioning apparatus.

173. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 172 wherein said step of positioning a plurality of detectors in an array adjacent to an outer surface of the patient's neck includes positioning the detectors adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

COPY

Applicant(s): Bomutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

174. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 171 further including the steps of providing a display illustrating a position of the leading end portion of the guide rod relative to the patient's trachea and a position of a leading end portion of the tracheal tube relative to the patient's trachea during at least a portion of said step of moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod.

175. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 171 further including the step of providing a display illustrating a position of the leading end portion of the guide rod relative to the patient's trachea during at least a portion of said step of moving the guide rod relative to the patient's respiratory system.

176. (Cancelled)

177. (Previously presented) A method of tracheal intubation, said method comprising the steps of positioning a plurality of detectors in an array adjacent to an outer surface of a patient's neck, moving a tracheal tube relative to the patient's respiratory system along an insertion path which extends from the patient's pharynx, through the patient's larynx and into the patient's trachea, emitting an output at a leading end portion of the tracheal tube as the tracheal tube moves along the insertion path, detecting the output emitted at the leading end portion of the tracheal tube with detectors of the plurality of detectors, and determining the position of the leading end portion of the tracheal tube along the insertion path as a function of the relationship of the emitted output detected by one detector of the plurality of detectors to the emitted output detected by another detector of the plurality of detectors,

wherein said step of emitting an output at a leading end portion of the tracheal tube includes emitting light at the leading end portion of the tracheal tube.

178. (Cancelled)

COPY

Applicant(s): Bonutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

179. (Previously presented) A method of tracheal intubation, said method comprising the steps of positioning a plurality of detectors in an array adjacent to an outer surface of a patient's neck, moving a tracheal tube relative to the patient's respiratory system along an insertion path which extends from the patient's pharynx, through the patient's larynx and into the patient's trachea, emitting an output at a leading end portion of the tracheal tube as the tracheal tube moves along the insertion path, detecting the output emitted at the leading end portion of the tracheal tube with detectors of the plurality of detectors, and determining the position of the leading end portion of the tracheal tube along the insertion path as a function of the relationship of the emitted output detected by one detector of the plurality of detectors to the emitted output detected by another detector of the plurality of detectors,

wherein said step of moving the tracheal tube relative to the patient's respiratory system along an insertion path includes determining when the leading end portion of the tracheal tube approaches a junction between the patient's respiratory system and the patient's esophagus, and steering the leading end portion of the tracheal tube away from the patient's esophagus by applying force against the leading end portion of the tracheal tube.

180. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 179 wherein said step of steering the leading end portion of the tracheal tube includes expanding an expandable element to urge the leading end portion of the tracheal tube in direction away from an entrance to the patient's esophagus.

181. (Original) A method of tracheal intubation, said method comprising the steps of positioning a plurality of emitters in an array adjacent to an outer surface of a patient's neck, moving a tracheal tube relative to the patient's respiratory system along an insertion path which extends from the patient's pharynx, through the patient's larynx and into the patient's trachea, emitting an output from the emitters of the plurality of emitters as the tracheal tube moves along the insertion path, detecting the output emitted by at least some of the emitters with a detector connected with a leading end portion of the tracheal tube as the tracheal tube moves along the

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Applicant(s): Bonutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

insertion path, and determining the position of the leading end portion of the tracheal tube along the insertion path as a function of the output from the plurality of emitters detected by the detector.

182. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 181 wherein said step of positioning a plurality of emitters in an array adjacent to an outer surface of the patient's neck includes positioning a plurality of magnets which emit magnetic fields adjacent to the outer surface of the patient's neck.

183. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 181 further including the steps of locating a positioning apparatus relative to the patient's trachea, moving a guide rod relative to the patient's respiratory system along an insertion path which extends from the patient's pharynx, through the patient's larynx and into the patient's trachea, detecting the output emitted by at least some of the emitters with a detector connected with a leading end portion of the guide rod as the guide rod moves along the insertion path, and determining the position of the leading end portion of the guide rod along the insertion path as a function of the output emitted from the plurality of emitters detected by the detector, said step of moving the tracheal tube relative to the patient's respiratory system along the insertion path includes moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod.

184. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 183 wherein said step of locating the positioning apparatus relative to the patient's trachea includes engaging the patient's Adam's apple with the positioning apparatus.

185. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 184 wherein said step positioning a plurality of emitters in an array adjacent to an outer surface of the patient's neck includes positioning the emitters adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

COPY

Applicant(s): Bonutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

186. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 183 further including the steps of providing a display illustrating a position of the leading end portion of the guide rod relative to the patient's trachea and a position of a leading end portion of the tracheal tube relative to the patient's trachea during at least a portion of said step of moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod.

187. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 183 further including the step of providing a display illustrating a position of the leading end portion of the guide rod relative to the patient's trachea during at least a portion of said step of moving the guide rod relative to the patient's respiratory system.

188. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 181 further including the step of providing a display illustrating a position of a leading end portion of the tracheal tube relative to the patient's trachea during at least a portion of said step of moving the tracheal tube relative to the patient's respiratory system.

189. (Original) A method of tracheal intubation, said method comprising the steps of positioning an emitter which provides an output adjacent to an outer surface of a patient's neck, moving a guide rod relative to a patient's respiratory system along an insertion path which extends into the patient's trachea, said step of moving the guide rod along the insertion path being performed with a detector connected with a leading end portion of the guide rod, detecting the output emitted from the emitter with the detector as the guide rod moves along the insertion path, interrupting movement of the guide rod along the insertion path in response to the detector detecting that the leading end portion of the guide rod is in a desired position relative to the patient's trachea, moving a tracheal tube along the guide rod, said step of moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod being performed with a detector connected with a leading end portion of the tracheal tube, detecting the output emitted from the emitter with the detector connected with the leading end portion of the tracheal tube as the tracheal tube moves along the guide rod, and interrupting movement of the tracheal tube along the guide rod in response to the detector

Applicant(s): Bonutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

connected with the leading end portion of the tracheal tube detecting that the leading end portion of the tracheal tube is in a desired position relative to the patient's trachea.

190. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 189 further including the step of engaging the patient's Adam's apple with a positioning apparatus, said step of moving the guide rod along the insertion path being performed while positioning a portion of the guide rod relative to the insertion path with the positioning apparatus.

191. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 190 further including the step of separating the guide rod from the positioning apparatus prior to performing the step of moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod.

192. (Original) A method of tracheal intubation, said method comprising the steps of positioning a detector adjacent to an outer surface of a patient's neck, moving a guide rod relative to a patient's respiratory system along an insertion path which extends into the patient's trachea, said step of moving the guide rod along the insertion path being performed with an emitter which provides an output connected with a leading end portion of the guide rod, detecting the output emitted from the emitter with the detector as the guide rod moves along the insertion path, interrupting movement of the guide rod along the insertion path in response to the detector detecting that the leading end portion of the guide rod is in a desired position relative to the patient's trachea, moving a tracheal tube along the guide rod, said step of moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod being performed with an emitter which provides an output connected with a leading end portion of the tracheal tube, detecting the output emitted from the emitter with the detector as the tracheal tube moves along the guide rod, and interrupting movement of the tracheal tube along the guide rod in response to the detector detecting that the leading end portion of the tracheal tube is in a desired position relative to the patient's trachea.

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Applicant(s): Bonutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

193. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 192 further including the step of engaging the patient's Adam's apple with a positioning apparatus, said step of moving the guide rod along the insertion path being performed while positioning a portion of the guide rod relative to the insertion path with the positioning apparatus.

194. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 193 further including the step of separating the guide rod from the positioning apparatus prior to performing the step of moving the tracheal tube along the guide rod.

195-199. (Cancelled)

200. (Previously presented) An apparatus for use in tracheal intubation, said apparatus comprising a tracheal tube, sensor means connected with said tracheal tube for determining the position of a leading end portion of said tracheal tube during movement of said tracheal tube along an insertion path which extends from a patient's pharynx, through the patient's larynx and into the patient's trachea, steering means connected with a leading end portion of said tracheal tube for applying force against the leading end portion of said tracheal tube during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path, a positioning assembly which is engagable with the patient's Adam's apple to locate said positioning assembly relative to the patient's body, and a guide surface connected with said positioning assembly to guide movement of said tracheal tube relative to the patient's body.

201. (Previously presented) An apparatus for use in tracheal intubation, said apparatus comprising a tracheal tube, sensor means connected with said tracheal tube for determining the position of a leading end portion of said tracheal tube during movement of said tracheal tube along an insertion path which extends from a patient's pharynx, through the patient's larynx and into the patient's trachea, and steering means connected with a leading end portion of said tracheal tube for applying force against the leading end portion of said tracheal tube during

COPY

Applicant(s): Bonutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path, wherein said sensor means includes an emitter which provides an output and a detector which responds to the output ~~from~~ from said emitter, one of said emitter and detector being connected with the leading end portion of said tracheal tube for movement therewith along the insertion path, the outer of said emitter and detector being disposed adjacent to an outer surface of the neck of the patient during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path.

202-204. (Cancelled)

205. (Previously presented) An apparatus for use in tracheal intubation of a patient, said apparatus comprising a tracheal tube which is moveable along an insertion path into a patient's trachea, an emitter which provides an output, and a detector which responds to the output from said emitter, a first one of said emitter and said detector being connected with said tracheal tube for movement therewith along the inserting path, a second one of said emitter and said detector being disposed adjacent to an outer surface of the patient's neck during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path, wherein said detector is connected with a leading end portion of said tracheal tube for movement therewith along the insertion path.

206. (Cancelled)

207. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~as set forth in claim 202 further including for use~~ in tracheal intubation of a patient, said apparatus comprising a tracheal tube which is moveable along an insertion path into a patient's trachea, an emitter which provides an output, a detector which responds to the output from said emitter, a first one of said emitter and said detector being connected with said tracheal tube for movement therewith along the inserting path, a second one of said emitter and said detector being disposed adjacent to an outer surface of the patient's neck during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path, and a positioning assembly which is engagable with the patient's Adam's apple to locate said positioning assembly relative to

COPY

Applicant(s): Bonutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

the patient's body, and a guide surface connected with said positioning assembly to guide movement of said tracheal tube relative to the patient's body.

208. (Cancelled)

209. (Previously presented) An apparatus for use in tracheal intubation of a patient, said apparatus comprising a tracheal tube which is movable along an insertion path into a patient's trachea; an emitter connected with a leading end portion of said tracheal tube, said emitter being effective to provide an output during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path; a plurality of detectors disposed in an array adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple, each detector of said plurality of detectors being responsive to the output from said emitter and means connected with said plurality of detectors for determining the position of the leading end portion of said tracheal tube along the insertion path as a function of outputs from said plurality of detectors during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path; and steering means connected with the leading end portion of said tracheal tube for applying force against the leading end portion of said tracheal tube during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path.

210. (Previously presented) An apparatus for use in tracheal intubation of a patient, said apparatus comprising a tracheal tube which is movable along an insertion path into a patient's trachea; an emitter connected with a leading end portion of said tracheal tube, said emitter being effective to provide an output during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path; a plurality of detectors disposed in an array adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple, each detector of said plurality of detectors being responsive to the output from said emitter and means connected with said plurality of detectors for determining the position of the leading end portion of said tracheal tube along the insertion path as a function of outputs from said plurality of detectors during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path; a plurality of expandable elements connected with the leading end portion of said tracheal tube; and means for conducting fluid pressure along said tracheal tube to said expandable elements to effect expansion of said

Applicant(s): Bonutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

expandable elements.

211. (Cancelled)

212. (Currently amended) An apparatus ~~as set forth in claim 208 further including~~ for use in tracheal intubation of a patient, said apparatus comprising a tracheal tube which is movable along an insertion path into a patient's trachea, an emitter connected with a leading end portion of said tracheal tube, said emitter being effective to provide an output during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path, a plurality of detectors disposed in an array adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple, each detector of said plurality of detectors being responsive to the output from said emitter and means connected with said plurality of detectors for determining the position of the leading end portion of said tracheal tube along the insertion path as a function of outputs from said plurality of detectors during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path, and a positioning assembly which is engagable with the patient's Adam's apple to locate said positioning assembly, and a guide surface connected with said positioning assembly to guide movement of said tracheal tube relative to the patient's body.

213 (Original). An apparatus for use in tracheal intubation of a patient, said apparatus comprising a tracheal tube which is movable along an insertion path into a patient's trachea, a detector connected with a leading end portion of said tracheal tube for movement therewith along the insertion path, and a plurality of emitters disposed in an array adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple, each emitter of said plurality of emitters being effective to provide an output which is detectable by said detector, and means connected with said detector for determining the position of the leading end portion of said tracheal tube as a function of the output from said plurality of emitters detected by said detector during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path.

COPY

Applicant(s): Bonutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

214. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 213 further including steering means connected with the leading end portion of said tracheal tube for applying force against the leading end portion of said tracheal tube during movement of said tracheal tube along the insertion path.

215. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 213 further including a plurality of expandable elements connected with the leading end portion of said tracheal tube and means for conducting fluid pressure along said tracheal tube to said expandable elements to effect expansion of said expandable elements.

216. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 213 further including a positioning assembly which is engagable with the patient's Adam's apple to locate said positioning assembly, and a guide surface connected with said positioning assembly to guide movement of said tracheal tube relative to the patient's body.

217. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 213 wherein each emitter of said plurality of emitters includes a magnet which emits a magnetic field, said detectors being responsive to the magnetic field emitted by said magnet of each of said emitters of said plurality of emitters.

218-222. (Cancelled)

223. (Original) A method of tracheal intubation, said method comprising the steps of locating a positioning apparatus relative to a patient's trachea by engaging the patient's Adam's apple with the positioning apparatus, providing a sensor system having a first portion, a second portion and a third portion, positioning the first portion of the sensor system adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple, moving a guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus into the patient's respiratory system along an insertion path with the second portion of the sensor system connected with a leading end portion of the guide rod, said step of moving the guide rod relative to the

COPY

Applicant(s): Bonutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

positioning apparatus being performed with the positioning apparatus in engagement with the patient's Adam's apple, determining when the leading end portion of the guide rod is in a desired position relative to the patient's trachea as a function of cooperation between the first portion of the sensor system positioned adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple and the second portion of the sensor system connected with the leading end portion of the guide rod, interrupting movement of the guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus in response to determining that the leading end portion of the guide rod is in the desired position relative to the patient's trachea, thereafter, disengaging the positioning apparatus from the guide rod, moving a tracheal tube along the guide rod into the patient's trachea with the third portion of the sensor system connected with a leading end portion of the tracheal tube, determining when the leading end portion of the tracheal tube is in a desired position relative to the patient's trachea as a function of cooperation between the first portion of the sensor system positioned adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple and the third portion of the sensor system connected with the leading end portion of the tracheal tube, and interrupting movement of the tracheal tube relative to the guide rod in response to determining that the leading end portion of the tracheal tube is in the desired position relative to the patient's trachea.

224. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 223 further including the step of steering the leading end portion of the guide rod as the leading end portion of the guide rod moves along the insertion path by expanding an expandable element connected with the leading end portion of the guide rod.

225. (Previously presented) A method of treating a patient, said method comprising the steps of locating a positioning apparatus relative to a portion of the patient's body by engaging the patient's body with the positioning apparatus, wherein a portion of the positioning apparatus is positioned adjacent to an Adam's apple of the patient, determining a position to which a elongated member is to be moved relative to the positioning apparatus, moving the elongated member into the patient's body while the positioning apparatus is in engagement with the

COPY

Applicant(s): Bonutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

patient's body, interrupting movement of the elongated member into the patient's body when the elongated member has moved to the previously determined position relative to the positioning apparatus, and performing a procedure in the patient's body while the elongated member is in the previously determined position relative to the patient's body.

226. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 225 wherein said step of moving an elongated member into the patient's body includes moving at least a portion of the elongated member through a portion of the positioning apparatus which is aligned with an opening in the patient's body.

227. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 225 wherein said step of locating the positioning apparatus relative to a portion of the patient's body includes varying the spatial relationship between first and second portions of the positioning apparatus, said step of determining a position to which the elongated member is to be moved relative to the patient's body includes determining the position as a function of the spatial relationship between the first and second portions of the positioning apparatus after the positioning apparatus has been located relative to the patient's body and when the positioning apparatus is disposed in engagement with the patient's body.

228. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 225 further including the step of disengaging the positioning apparatus from the elongated member prior to performance of said step of performing a procedure in the patient's body, said step of disengaging the positioning apparatus from the elongated member is performed with a portion of the elongated member in the patient's body.

229. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 225 wherein said step of moving a guide rod relative to the positioning apparatus includes sliding the elongated member along a guide surface connected with the positioning apparatus, said method further including separating the

Applicant(s): Bonutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

positioning apparatus from the elongated member while the elongated member extends into the patient's body, and, thereafter, performing said procedure in the patient's body.

230. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 225 wherein said step of engaging a portion of the patient's body with the positioning apparatus includes engaging spaced apart locations on the patient's body with the positioning apparatus.

231. (Previously presented) A method of treating a patient, said method comprising the steps of locating a positioning apparatus relative to a portion of the patient's body by engaging the patient's body with the positioning apparatus, determining a position to which a elongated member is to be moved relative to the positioning apparatus, moving the elongated member into the patient's body while the positioning apparatus is in engagement with the patient's body, magnetically attracting a leading end portion of the elongated member with a magnet disposed outside of the patient's body during performance of said step of moving the elongated member into the patient's body, interrupting movement of the elongated member into the patient's body when the elongated member has moved to the previously determined position relative to the positioning apparatus, and performing a procedure in the patient's body while the elongated member is in the previously determined position relative to the patient's body.

232. (Previously presented) A method of treating a patient, said method comprising the steps of locating a positioning apparatus relative to a portion of the patient's body by engaging the patient's body with the positioning apparatus, determining a position to which a elongated member is to be moved relative to the positioning apparatus, moving the elongated member into the patient's body while the positioning apparatus is in engagement with the patient's body, positioning a magnet adjacent to a portion of the patient's body and promoting movement of a leading end portion of the elongated member into the patient's body under the influence of a magnetic field emanating from the magnet during movement of the elongated member into the patient's body, interrupting movement of the elongated member into the patient's body when the

Applicant(s): Bonutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

elongated member has moved to the previously determined position relative to the positioning apparatus, and performing a procedure in the patient's body while the elongated member is in the previously determined position relative to the patient's body.

233. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 225 wherein said step of moving the elongated member into the patient's body includes detecting when a leading end portion of the elongated member is in a position other than a desired position and applying force against the leading end portion of the elongated member to move the leading end portion of the elongated member toward the desired position.

234. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 225 further including the step of transmitting an image from a leading end portion of the elongated member to a location outside of the patient to facilitate visualization of tissue disposed in the patient's body adjacent to the leading end portion of the elongated member.

235. (Original) A method set forth in claim 225 further including the steps of providing a sensor assembly having an emitter portion which provides an output and a detector portion which responds to the output from the emitter portion, moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly into the patient's body with a leading end portion of the elongated member as the elongated member moves into the patient's body, positioning one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly adjacent to the portion of the patient's body engaged by the positioning apparatus, and determining when the leading end portion of the elongated member is in a desired position relative to the patient's body as a function of a response from the detector portion of the sensor assembly during movement of the elongated member into the patient's body.

236. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 235 wherein said step of moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly into the patient's body with the leading end

Applicant(s): Bonutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

portion of the elongated member includes moving the emitter portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's body with the leading end portion of the elongated member, said step of positioning one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly adjacent to the portion of the patient's body engaged by the positioning apparatus includes positioning the detector portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the portion of the patient's body engaged by the positioning apparatus.

237. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 236 wherein said step of moving the emitter portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's body with the leading end portion of the elongated member includes moving a magnet into the patient's body with the leading end portion of the elongated member, said step of positioning the detector portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the portion of the patient's body engaged by the positioning apparatus includes positioning a device which responds to a magnetic field adjacent to the patient's Adam's apple.

238. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 235 wherein said step of moving one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly into the patient's body with the leading end portion of the elongated member includes moving the detector portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's body with the leading end portion of the elongated member, said step of positioning one of the emitter and detector portions of the sensor assembly adjacent to the portion of the patient's body engaged by the positioning apparatus includes positioning the emitter portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the portion of the patient's body engaged by the positioning apparatus.

239. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 238 wherein said step of moving the detector portion of the sensor assembly into the patient's body with the leading end portion of the elongated member includes moving a device which responds to magnetic fields into the patient's body with the leading end portion of the elongated member, said step of positioning the emitter portion of the sensor assembly adjacent to the portion of the patient's body includes positioning a

COPY

Applicant(s): Bonutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

magnet adjacent to the portion of the patient's body.

240. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 225 wherein said step of moving an elongated member into the patient's body includes moving a plurality of expandable elements into the patient's body with the elongated member and expanding at least one of the plurality of expandable elements as the leading end portion of the elongated member is moved relative to the patient's body.

241. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 225 wherein said step of moving the elongated member into the patient's body includes steering the leading end portion of the elongated member by expanding an expandable element connected with the leading end portion of the elongated member.

242. (Previously presented) A method of treating a patient, said method comprising the steps of locating a positioning apparatus relative to a portion of the patient's body by engaging the patient's body with the positioning apparatus, determining a position to which a elongated member is to be moved relative to the positioning apparatus, moving the elongated member into the patient's body while the positioning apparatus is in engagement with the patient's body, interrupting movement of the elongated member into the patient's body when the elongated member has moved to the previously determined position relative to the positioning apparatus, and performing a procedure in the patient's body while the elongated member is in the previously determined position relative to the patient's body, wherein said step of moving an elongated member into the patient's trachea includes moving a light source with the leading end portion of the elongated member and detecting when the light source is in a position corresponding to a desired position of the leading end portion of the elongated member by observing light emitted from the light source from outside of the patient's body.

COPY

Applicant(s): Bomutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

Remarks

Claims 171-175, 177, 179-194, 200, 201, 205, 207, 209, 210, 212-217, and 223-242 are pending in the application and are presented for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 207 and 212 have been amended and claims 100-106, 169, 170, 178, 199, 202-204, 206, 208, and 211 have been cancelled. Applicant believes the claim amendments, cancellations, and the accompanying remarks herein serve to clarify the present invention and are independent of patentability. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 171-175, 177, 179-194, 200, 201, 205, 209, 210, 213-217, and 223-242. Additionally, the status of claims 207 and 212 was not provided in the above references Office Action. However, in the Office Action mailed November 24, 2003, the Examiner indicated that claims 207 and 212 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has rewritten claims 207 and 212 as required by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

Claims 100-106, 169, 170, 178, 199, 202-204, 206, 208, and 211 were rejected. Applicant has cancelled these claims rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, the claim rejections are believed to have been overcome, placing all pending claims in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

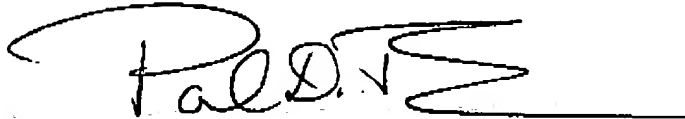
The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

COPY

Applicant(s): Bomutti, Peter M
Application No.: 09/728,553
Examiner: A Lewis

Please charge any required fee (or credit any overpayments of fees) to the Deposit
Account of the undersigned, Account No. 500601 (Docket No. 780-A02-033).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Bianco", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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